

# HEEP AND COWS

## Slim Attendance at the Opening of the Live Stock Show.

Plenty of Barn Yard Aroma, but No Pretty Milk-maids.

Most Exciting Feature Was the Ironing of the Patient Sheep.

SMALL BULL TAKEN FOR A BEAR.

Carpenters Still at Work on Pens for the "Critters," and the Shearing Contest Did Not Take Place.

To judge from the opening day of its exhibition the National Association of Exhibitors of Live Stock is not going to be taken up by fashionable people, perhaps not largely even by unfashionable people. The big building yesterday was fragrant with the odor of cattle, that odor that physicians say will do more to cure consumption than even the balmy odor of the pines, but oh, where were the pretty frocks and bonnets, the smart hats and button-holes of the Horse Show?

The contrast was killing. How could one compare the immaculate collars and scanty trousers of, say, Reggy Brier and Prescott Lawrence with the strictly bucolic make-up of the gentlemen who passed judgment on the cattle, sheep and aristocratic trotter, the enterprising hunter and the self-conscious high stepper? Those hats! They were too much and not even the associations of that ring hallowed by the memories of so many spotted garments could do so.

It is all very well for experts to say that the current exhibition contains an extraordinary number of fine cattle and animals of one kind and another. The public does not seem to know this. The public appears to want light and color, a chance to look at people whose names are familiar and the public positively does not know a Poland-China pig from a blue-blooded representative of the Berkshire breed, a short horn from a Hereford, nor a Southdown from a Shropshire.

Never before, probably, in the history of the world, was there a population so totally ignorant of agriculture as that of New York—cosmopolitan in every sense, yet seldom, if ever, hailing from a country district where the fine lines of a cow or a bull or a sheep or a pig, are spoken of with any sense of judgment.

It is true that the same fatness was seen last year on the opening day, and that the flocks picked up the show was slightly enough a success, not dramatically, perhaps, but a success of esteem. But this year the management is not the same and not so practical, and, moreover, the present management is deprived of what is always a saving card with the general public—the right to give competitions of jumping horses. The National Horse Show Association is very close to the Madison Square Garden Company, and part of its contract stipulates that at no other exhibition in the course of the year shall such competitions be held. Without such exhibition, and without the absence of the pretty feature of exhibiting packs of hounds, their masters, huntsmen and whips, the present "how has much" contest will be a failure.

A State of Incompleteness. In view of the fact that time had been allowed since last Friday evening to get the building in shape, the presence of the indefatigable carpenter, largely occupied in chasing the fugitive sheep back to his pen, was scarcely expected at the opening yesterday afternoon. The finishing touches that the attendants were putting on the cattle and sheep were strictly en regie. There was a good deal of the "how has much" contest, but the sheep were not so fat as the cattle. What the sheep were about it when his fleece is carefully rationed, is unknown, but he seems to feel that he is a good deal of a show, and "valet" clips off the odd tags of wool and then dresses him down with a preparation that in general appearance and effect resembles a dandruff cure.

As for the cattle, they seem prepared to stand anything. There is a big black bull, the champion, a specimen of the breed here known as the "Poland-China," though in Great Britain and Ireland as "Poland Angus." This is the breed that is little girl and a good deal of a show, and "Why, mother, do they have bears here?" Any how, this big black fellow, somewhat shaggy, and, hornless, went through an operation of exhibition to an admiring crowd of connoisseurs that would have tried the temper of an archangel.

This attempt that we cannot get an exhibition of our own without cutting in the aid of the latter-day inventor and manufacturer to supplement our show, it appeared to explain the solemnity of the proceedings, which, in truth, savored more of teat obsequies than the wedding feast, and the fat of paternalism rather than of the stock market.

Anyhow, there was something rather pathetic about the display, for it seemed to say: "Oh dear, we farmers are such back-bitsers that we cannot get an exhibition of our own without cutting in the aid of the latter-day inventor and manufacturer to supplement our show, it appeared to explain the solemnity of the proceedings, which, in truth, savored more of teat obsequies than the wedding feast, and the fat of paternalism rather than of the stock market."

What's the precise connection between bicycles and a live stock show is not apparent, but a display of a patent food at the Fourth avenue end of the building was flanked by an exhibition of a well-known brand of wheels, and the bicycle was adopted the wheel as an appropriate mount for Mary when she goes to call the cattle back, and also as a means of conveying her to the show.

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